

URLs, protocols, scaleability, etc. - and WORK

From: Sasha Chislenko (sasha1@netcom.com)

Date: Mon Oct 04 1999 - 12:14:10 PDT

- **Next message:** Sasha Chislenko: "Re: Help requested for Thesis"
 - **Previous message:** Robin Mastenbroek: "Help requested for Thesis"
 - **In reply to:** Robin Mastenbroek: "Re: filtering URL"
 - **Next in thread:** Joaquin Delgado: "Citeseer (Error in URL)"
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Looks like we are getting serious here...

Some comments on previous messages:

I think we are mixing two issues with URLs.

Persistent identifiers for objects are one thing, and delivery protocols are an entirely different subject.

For many types of objects persistent identifiers already exist. Such as ISBNs for printed publications, or Social Security Numbers (or their equivalents in other countries) for people.

On the Web, there have been a lot of discussion about URNs.

Internet Archive ([<archive.org>](http://archive.org)) keeps time-sliced copies of all Web materials.

The Distributed Object services looks like a very serious work in this direction - and its promoters probably are complaining that it isn't taking off because nobody is writing compelling applications - even for the areas where perfect object identification already exists.

All this is much easier than, and independent from, good scaleable ACF algorithms.

BTW, there are good scaleable solutions; Firefly handled requests in real-time with 200,000 profiles, and I was working on doing more, with advisor filtering, usage of specialty/controversial items only, and clustering).

Cross-domain relevance can be computed for topical areas or opinion clusters; I planned to do it at Firefly, the feature-guided rec. server was developed with largely this in mind - but again, we never got to it.

Many applications can empower each other without competition. E.g., people with similar tastes in music could be recommended to each other on car pool matching service; both music site

and car pool site would benefit from it. Same with books, dating, etc.

I would definitely want to know the opinion of my peers on CNN in general, not only on particular stories.

Search engines should definitely work with ACF. If I look for restaurants, I want recommendations in my city, price range, food type, etc. Eventually, with XML encoding, one could ask for "an expensive Mexican restaurant in Boston", but quality and style could be still best provided by my taste peers.

There are much better ways to match profiles than straight correlation (I'll share some suggestions if we ever get practical) - and lots of machine learning algorithms to optimize parameters for any required performance.

On Explicit ratings: Not all users are lazy and cheap; many would be happy to give careful feedback, and even pay for resources. My first 1993 proposal [<http://www.lucifer.com/~sasha/articles/MessageRating.html>](http://www.lucifer.com/~sasha/articles/MessageRating.html) had payments as ratings. They also allow better understanding of user's interests.

A combination of implicit and explicit ratings may work best; explicit ratings may explain what various types of user behavior mean, and also provide criteria for optimization of algorithms.

I do not see a single problem that cannot be resolved with a small to moderate amount of effort.

Maybe, the best approach would be to look at the issue from an optimistic and constructive point of view, rename all the problems that keep being reshuffled here and elsewhere for years, into Action Items, structure them for a chosen set of ACF applications - and we'll have a blueprint for a good set of services. And then get it funded. By the government, if the democratic governance is able to recognize the value of historical restructuring of global knowledge exchanges (I don't think it will), or a private group that, unlike some others, will not kill the idea to make a quick buck.

It shouldn't take much money either.

I can get the Russian group working on Newsfilter to develop a working prototype service at a cost the subscribers to this list could afford personally...

Any more problems there? :-)

Alexander Chislenko <<http://www.lucifer.com/~sasha/home.html>>
Newsfilter page: <http://www.lucifer.com/~sasha/newsfilter_plan.html>

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Posted to the collab@sims.berkeley.edu mailing list.

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